



Embassy of the United States of America
Office of Public Affairs
Baku, Azerbaijan

83, Azadlıq Prospekt
AZ1007 Baku, Azerbaijan
Email: seyidovag@state.gov

Phone: +(99412) 498 03 35
Fax: +(99412) 465 66 71
URL: azerbaijan.usembassy.gov

MEDIA ADVISORY

Baku Softball Tournament Marks Peace Corps 50th Birthday June 3, 2011

Baku – As part of the year-long celebration of the Peace Corps' 50th birthday, young Azerbaijani softball players from Khachmaz and Bilasuvar travel to Baku this Sunday, June 5, for a one-day tournament at The International School of Azerbaijan (TISA) in Yeni Yasamal. They'll be joined by Americans, other international residents and Azerbaijani softball players for friendly games.

Deputy Chief of Mission Adam Sterling will throw out the first pitch Sunday, as players and fans pay honor to the work done by Peace Corps volunteers since the program was created by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. Over the course of its half-century life, some 200,000 volunteers have worked to forge peace and friendship in 139 countries around the globe.

Peace Corps came to Azerbaijan in 2003, and since that time 368 volunteers have served in more than 150 communities across Azerbaijan. Currently, there are 114 volunteers living and working in mostly rural Azerbaijan; half are teaching English in schools, a quarter work on youth development and a quarter are devoted to community economic development.

Softball – a variant of the classic American sport of baseball – is played by millions of Americans of all ages. Peace Corps volunteers posted to Azerbaijan have formed teams Tovuz, Ganja, Goranboy, Balakan, Oguz, Masalli Mingachevir, Bilasuvar and Khachmaz to encourage the development of team spirit and healthy competition between young people in the communities where they work. Apart from playing the all-American sport, the players sport uniforms and caps that have been donated by Americans interested in sharing their love of the game.

###